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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Youth Night slated for Jackson, Tupelo

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

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For the first time in the history of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, the largest annual gathering of Mississippi Baptists anywhere in the state will be held in two locations to relieve overcrowding and cut down on travel time.

Don Lum, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, said committee members planning the dual events are excited about the possibility of maximizing attendance by holding one session of Youth Night on July 16 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson — the traditional location of years past — as well as a second session at BancorpSouth Arena in Tupelo on the following night.

Both sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m., with doors open at 5:45 p.m. A training session for counselors, which Lum said are still being recruited, will begin at 6 p.m. at both locations.

at 6 p.m. at both locations. Mississippi Baptist Youth Night has had two sessions before, but both sessions were held at Mississippi Coliseum. That hasn't been done nearly a decade, however.

"We've been maxed out with one session at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson for several years. That's a good problem to have if you're the event coordinator but we felt there was a whole group of young people who were missing out, who couldn't travel three or more hours from north Mississippi to attend

"We're planning for a total attendance at both sessions of 12,000 young people. Having Youth Night in two locations will spread attendance out and allow us to maintain the quality that the event deserves. In addition, the Saturday night session in Tupelo will allow our north Mississippi young people to be home in time to get a good night's rest and be ready for church the next morning," Lum said.

David Rhodes of Wayfarer Ministries in Spartanburg, N.C., will be the speaker at both locations. He is a 1996 graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fl. He earned his Master of Divinity degree in 2000 from Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham.

Rhodes has co-authored five books in AMG Publishers' Following God for Youth and Young Adults series: God Is; Dismantled; Redefining Normal; Broken;

and Vice Versa. In addition, he had authored the kids' devotional book, Snack Pack.

He and his wife Kim and daughters Emma and Izzy live near Greenville, SC.

"Although this will be David's first time to speak at Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, he is a familiar name to youth ministers across the state," Lum said.

Providing music at both locations will be Aaron Keyes and his band. Keyes is worship pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Snellville, Ga. Keyes and his band travel internationally, leading worship and coaching worship leaders. Keyes also works with Kingsway Music, from the United Kingdom. His albums include *Grace Midtown-Songs* for the City; *Not Guilty Any More*; and *Because*.

He and his wife of almost 10 years, Megan, have four sons: Cooper, Judah, Nyle, and Linen.

"This is the first appearance for Aaron and his band at Mississippi Baptist Youth

Night. They are outstanding Christian musicians, and they'll present an outstanding performance," Lum predicted.

In a departure from past years, an offering to cover expenses will not be conducted, Lum said. Instead, a suggested donation of five dollars per person at the door will be available.

"The planning committee felt this would allow us to better meet the demands of having double expenses at double locations. It's an effort to help us maintain the quality standards for which this event is known each year," he said.

For more information, contact Lum at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: dlum@mcb.org. Web site: www.mcb.org.

www.mnbc.org.
Mississippi Baptist Youth Night is a ministry of the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Missions directors form mutual aid group

GULFPORT, Miss. (BP and local reports) — Directors of missions from associations in four states that border the Gulf Coast met June 29 in Gulfport to discuss how they could help each other in the aftermath of a hurricane or other disaster.

The result of the five-hour dialogue at the offices of Gulf Coast Association was an agreement to organize a "Southern Gulf Coast DOM (directors of missions) group" that would provide "staff-to-staff support" after a disaster.

The official name of the DOM network, membership parameters, and various financial and organizational matters will be developed in further meetings, said C. Alan Woodward, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's pastor/leadership development department, who facilitated the day's discussions.

Building relationships was one reason for pulling the group together, said Steve Mooneyham, missions director for the Gulf Coast Association. While each of the 20 people at the meeting knew at least one other person present, no one knew everyone in the group, which included DOMs from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, as well as associate DOMs and disaster relief directors.

"We've all been in this mixer [of hurricane disasters]," said Mooneyham, whose area took a direct hit from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, in introductory remarks to the participants. "It just makes sense to me that we who have experienced hurricanes can work together to make the local experience better, to help each other — particularly in the early days when help is so crucial."

Mooneyham's idea was that hurricanes typically do not hit

all the associations along the Gulf at once, but that at one time or another they have hit everywhere, so each of the directors knows what's needed in disaster relief response.

In the immediate aftermath of a hurricane, it could be a tremendous asset to have the support of a DOM from outside the affected region, Mooneyham said.

"This would free the [local] DOM to be checking out things outside the office," Mooneyham said as others nodded their heads in agreement. "If all the states know what the plans are, then, for example, the Florida or Louisiana DOM could come in and organize, and the Mississippi team be out in the field, working through their already-established contacts and relationships."

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina five years ago was still uppermost in the minds of the participants.

"When Katrina hit, we weren't prepared for something like that," said Linda Kittrell, Gulf Coast Association's administrative assistant for the last 21 years. She stayed with her husband, daughter, and dogs in their home about 11 miles due north of the Gulf during the storm.

"Camille had been 30 years prior but didn't do the damage Katrina did with its storm surge. Camille was here and gone. Katrina stayed. Its straight-line winds brought water up through the floorboards."

Joe Arnold, director of missions in Louisiana's Bayou Association, thought of a 2009 storm. "After Gustav, people didn't know what was going on," he said. "Some things work in one area and not in another, and communication was nonexistent."



HELPING EACH OTHER — Alan Woodward, director of the pastor/leadership development department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, facilitates directors of missions and others from southern Gulf Coast associations in the development of a network that can come to each other's assistance in the aftermath of hurricanes or other disasters. (BP photo)

"It's critical for us to know who the other folks are who have worked through a disaster," said Rick Barnhart of Alabama's Baldwin Association. "What we've done is the creation of a collaborative effort for communication, awareness and ongoing relationships, developing a process that will enable us to be on top of a situation should the need arise."

Jimmy Holcomb of Mississippi's George-Greene Association said putting a DOM group together has the possibility of working on other levels in addition to disaster relief.

"This puts us at the front of the learning curve for associations helping each other in times of crises," said Bob Greene of Florida's Pensacola Association. "We could go elsewhere, not just in the southern Gulf Coast states."

Allan Nix of Jones Association in Laurel noted, "In the course of working together there needs to be a sense of camaraderie, and we're developing that here today. This has been very beneficial. It gave us

an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals... so we can mutually encourage and support one another in a time of disaster."

Mooneyham said the response he got from the others indicated the workshop had been a success. "I wanted to have something that would be worthy of their time," he said. "What we need as DOMs when there's a crisis is to have someone we trust answer the calls that come in, spread the load, whatever helps, and as early as possible."

"An important leadership principle is to keep a balance between relationships and results," Woodward said. "If we focus only on results, people might feel like they're a project, that we are just using them to accomplish our goals. If we focus only on relationships, we may drink a lot of coffee but not get anything done."

"However, relationship building is usually the best place to begin, because that creates a climate for the best results," Woodward said. "We have made progress toward both of these today."



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Clinton lauds LGBT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a recent speech that the State Department is committed to advancing the homosexual agenda around the world. "This is a human rights issue," Clinton said June 22 at a State Department event celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Month. "Just as I was very proud to say the obvious more than 15 years ago in Beijing that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, well, let me say today that human rights are gay rights and gay rights are human rights, once and for all. So here at the State Department, we will continue to advance a comprehensive human rights agenda that includes the elimination of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity," Clinton said. "We are elevating our human rights dialogues with other governments and conducting public diplomacy to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons." The secretary of state told about a young man in Albania who disclosed his homosexual tendencies on a popular television show and who then received public support from the U.S. ambassador, also on television. "He visited his hometown and he invited him to an event at our embassy, conveying to all Albanians that the United States supports his rights and respects his courage," Clinton said. "As we continue to advance LGBT rights in other countries, we also must continually work to make sure we are advancing the agenda here."

Looking back

10 years ago

A Texas school district policy permitting public prayer before football games is unconstitutional, even when the prayer is composed and led by a student, the U.S. Supreme Court announces June 19.

20 years ago

In an unprecedented development, 12 of 14 resolutions reported by the resolution committee at the annual SBC in New Orleans, die by lack of a quorum at the final session. With over 35,000 registered, 9,600 messengers (25%) were needed to conduct business, but only 4,000 – 5,000 were present.

30 years ago

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly will be dedicated "to the glory of God" in a special service on the grounds July 22. The facility was purchased from the U.S. Government as surplus property.



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Radically reprioritizing CP

When I was growing up in a Baptist church not so long ago, our heroes were the missionaries," a Mississippi pastor observed recently. "Today, though, it seems like our missionaries have been replaced by mega church pastors."

So it has been in Southern Baptist life for several years now. We do seem to be dazzled by these towering figures, leaders who are firmly grounded in theology and doctrine and who can preach down heaven. They're pretty good businessmen, too, some of them managing church budgets and personnel numbers that rival their state conventions and even private corporations.

Good for them. God can be praised in a mega church just as well as He can be praised in a small church. Mega church ministries can be just as effective as any other size church's ministries.

In many cases, these men have strived for decades to build a church and a ministry base that God can bless — and He has, richly.

Southern Baptists are apparently impressed. Since 1990, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting have elected eight mega church pastors to the office of president. With most of them serving two consecutive one-year terms, that means mega church pastors have been in that high office for 15 of the last 20 years.

For all the good Kingdom work that mega churches and mega church pastors do, however, there are a few pitfalls that seem to go along with leading such a large church. The main one seems to be a lack of understanding of the importance of cooperation as Southern Baptists have traditionally defined it.

Of the eight mega church pastors who have served as SBC president in the span of the last 20 years, few of them have been strong supporters of the Cooperative Program, the unified giving program that allows us to fully support ministries ranging from state Baptist campgrounds and children's villages to SBC-wide causes such as seminaries and missionary-sending agencies.

As a matter of fact, most of the mega church pastors who have led the SBC as president in recent years have led their churches to give as little as two percent or less of their church's budget to the Cooperative Program. True enough, even two percent of a mega church's budget can be an astounding amount in total dollars — but as a percentage of the overall church budget, it's a pittance.

Instead of fully supporting SBC and state convention causes, many mega churches retain a great deal of that money to fund



Wright

their own causes. While it is a fact that under our Baptist system of polity each church is autonomous and makes its own decisions about how to spend the funds that are given by church members — and that's the way it should be — still, it doesn't indicate an intention to cooperate when two percent or less is passed on to the Cooperative Program.

Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., and newly-elected SBC president, represents that mega-church trend. He has led the mega church he pastors to actually reduce Cooperative Program funding in recent years.

"We realized it does cause the church to appear not to be as supportive of the main approach to missions in the Cooperative Program, and yet, at the same time, we continue to give very heavily to the Cooperative Program," Wright told reporters after his election. "We would very much prefer that all those funds go straight through CP," Wright said, "but there needs to be a radical reprioritization of that money."

For example, Wright has called upon state conventions to retain as little as 25 percent of Cooperative Program funds and pass the rest along to SBC missionary causes. Doing so, however, would eviscerate state conventions ministries that depend on the funding (such as state campgrounds and children's villages), as mentioned above.

Tellingly, Wright has not led his church to adopt the same lofty goal.

If every pastor in the SBC followed Wright's lead, the SBC would be a different place. Some people feel that would be a good step, while others worry that such an attitude would be the death knell of many worthy ministries. Who's right, and who's wrong?

With the direction in which the mega church pastors are leading us, and our apparent infatuation with them, we'll know over the coming years.

GUEST OPINION:



Playing soccer, serving Christ

By Melanie Clinton
Johannesburg, South Africa

I was a little torn. As an American who's lived much of my life in Africa, I wanted Africa to do well in the World Cup tournament in South Africa. I was disheartened when only one of six African teams qualified for the second round of competition, but so proud of Ghana for going forward.

In my heart, however, it was USA all the way. Nothing compares to that feeling of walking up to a stadium, totting the Stars and Stripes and chanting "USA!" alongside strangers with whom you feel a sudden sense of camaraderie simply because they, too, speak "American" and look like fools in their red, white, and blue face paint.

When the U.S. qualified for the round of 16 after Landon Donovan's last-minute goal against Algeria, my husband, a friend, and I immediately went online in search of tickets for their match against Ghana in Rustenburg. I wanted to be there to cheer them to victory, to possibly watch history being made. I, like most other Americans, was determined our boys would make it at least to the quarterfinals.

Even though they didn't, it was still amazing to be there. The majority of the crowd

was pulling for Ghana, but in my (admittedly biased) opinion, we and the Americans around us were the loudest, most passionate sections in the stands.

We watched the match from standing positions, like real soccer fans should. We belted out the national anthem at the top of our lungs, even the pitchy, hard-to-sing parts. We chanted repeatedly, "Yes, we can!" and "Go, USA!" We shouted in frustration when our team missed shots. We jumped up and down wildly when Landon Donovan made the penalty kick.

Our team had become quite adept at pulling off last-minute miracles, but after Ghana scored a goal in the first half of overtime, I resigned myself to the fact we

were probably going to lose. Our team fought hard, but they couldn't pull it off. After the match was over, we lingered till the last player left the field, hoping they'd see our flags and know we were still behind them.

The day before the match, U.S. forward Herculez Gomez, who played during the overtime portion of the game, posted this on his Twitter account: "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps — Proverbs 16:9 See you in Rustenburg."

I appreciate Gomez's perspective. I'm not really one of those fans who prays for a team to win a match (although during the USA vs. Slovenia game I was sorely tempted). I figure God knows who the victor should be and

is probably more concerned with how the win or loss shapes the character of the individual athlete than with how it makes a fan happy or devastated.

There are several followers of Christ on the U.S. men's national team. During each game I've prayed for them, that they would walk with integrity whether it be in the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat.

In the midst of this defeat, I'm hopeful. Hopeful that in four years, our team will do better. Hopeful that soccer and the World Cup will continue to increase in popularity in the U.S. Hopeful that Ghana will give Africa her "glory story."

Above all, I'm hopeful that men like Gomez, Tim Howard, Clarence Goodson, and other believers on the U.S. team will use their fame as a platform to share the hope they have in Christ.

Goodbye for now, Team USA. You may be leaving the World Cup stage, but you'll be in our hearts for a long time to come!

Clinton is a writer and editor with the International Mission Board who has lived and worked in five African countries.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 8, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

STATE-WIDE MISSISSIPPI BIBLE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

October 15-16, 2010

9:00 a.m. Friday – 3:00 p.m. Saturday
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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

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There are more than 10 Hispanic congregations in Mississippi. Margaret Lackey gifts provide the opportunity for each one of them to worship in their own language and culture.

BACK TO WORK

The Southern Baptist Convention convened in Orlando, Florida in 2010. For a year, a blue ribbon task force appointed by the president of the Convention had studied Southern Baptist structure, plan, and priorities related to the Great Commission. Thousands came to Orlando and there in the historic tradition of Baptists, we gathered, discussed, expressed themselves, amended, voted, prayed, and then the Convention concluded. Almost the entire year there had been so much talk, some disagreement, a lot of heated rhetoric, sometimes accusations, and at other times affirmations related to the report that would be brought from the Task Force on the Great Commission Resurgence.

A beautiful brochure and presentation had been put together and printed. Two hours of the Convention's life was spent in discussing the report and with amendments intact, the vote was taken. Baptists agreed upon seeking to energize to an even greater level our commitment to the Great Commission. The question was and somewhat hauntingly remains — what now? What shall we do? How does it affect us? In reality, where are Southern Baptists going now?

In the hours following the Convention, I kept thinking about the part-time summer job that I got involved in when I was in high school. Along with some friends, I was a part of a crew that painted or repainted the yellow curb around our area. I am sure that now they have a machine that does it and it probably only takes a few days. Back then, I and those guys alongside of me, we were the machine. If you can imagine the Mississippi summer in the heat of the day with high humidity bent over painting a yellow curb, then you know that it got close to being work.

I do not remember being a part of any union nor do I remember the ACLU coming to my rescue about child labor laws or worse, child abuse. However, every hour and half or so the man in charge would tell us to take a break, get some water, sit in the shade a little bit, and just about the time we were starting to relax he would say, "All right back to work guys!" It was then we were faced with the reality of what appeared



Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

to be thousands of miles of yellow curbing that was yet to be painted. While that, of course, is an exaggeration there is no exaggeration to the need that stares us in the face of reaching this nation and this world for Christ.

It is not just the findings of an all-star panel or the vote of a Convention that will even begin to remotely share the answer to the bewildering questions of our world, but each one of us all across our churches must rise up to hear the call of Jesus: "Okay, let's get back to work!" Then being powered by His strength and ability, we can see a new day. We can experience a resurgence. We can know revival from heaven.

If you have any question as to what you can do to see God do greater things, you can affirm the Great Commission as the call of Jesus to your life to be His witness.

This is not Convention action. This is conviction on a personal level that will transform you into a witness of the life-changing experience that Jesus brought to you. How long has it been since you personally shared with anyone — family, friends, or strangers that Jesus Christ has made a difference in your life? I am confident that there are millions of us who know that Jesus lives in our hearts. He has died for our sins, cleansed us from our sins, set us free, and yet

at work, school, church, and social gatherings we never say a word.

The other day I had the privilege of talking with a young Muslim. Not knowing his background or affiliation with any religion, I asked him if he was a Christian. He replied, "No, I am a Muslim." I then asked him if anyone had ever told him about Jesus, who He was, and what He did. He said, "No — no one ever had." Standing out on the side of the road, I briefly told him about our Lord. Now we were not in a foreign land or some strange unknown sector of our own country and yet this young man had never been told about Jesus. God knows that we speak about everything else. We share our feelings about music, the temperature, or ballgames but we have developed lockjaw in speaking about the Gospel. We must ask God to free us up and then do what He has called us to do.

You can affirm and help strengthen your church's support of the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program is the most amazing God-given channel to sustain our efforts to reach Mississippi, America, and the world with the Good News of

Jesus. Clearly, there are other things that you can do and many other things are being done, but nothing, absolutely nothing is as significant as our gifts given to the Lord to touch this world through the Cooperative Program. When your church begins to discuss its budget and someone indicates that you should reduce the percentage or the amount of giving through the Cooperative Program, it is a great time to re-evaluate and even contest such a move. While the percentages that churches give to missions through the Cooperative Program have declined over the past years, I believe that Mississippi Baptists can be the very first state in the nation to be so committed to mission giving through the Cooperative Program that we can be on the incline.

As you pray about it, would you encourage and make plans even now to focus on and promote that special end of the year gift through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions? One of the things in the Great Commission Resurgence Report was the challenge to reach a goal of 200 million dollars through this special offering. I do not know if Southern Baptists can reach that goal this year, but I do believe that Mississippi Baptists will do a greater thing than they have ever done before. So the bottom-line to the post Convention is let's look at the Great Commission. Let us pray for resurgence and get back to work.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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Matthew 5:16

Two Big Nights This Year

July 29 & 30, 2010

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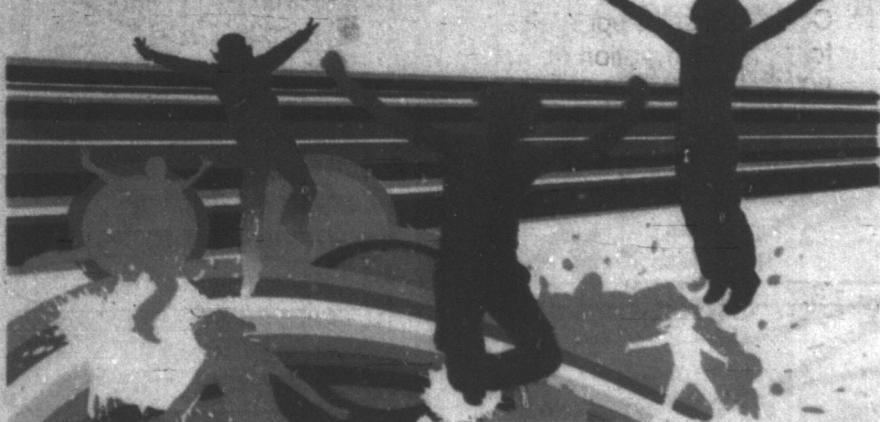
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9/13/10	Lee Association Office Tupelo	6:30-8:00 p.m.
9/16/10	FBC, Laurel	6:30-8:00 p.m.

For more info contact Discipleship & Family Ministry
601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651, ext 284

Special Ministries Retreat 2010

September 24-25, 2010
4 p.m. (9/24) - 1 p.m. (9/25)
Garaywa, Clinton, Miss.



The Special Ministries Retreat
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Info? Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org
or Lee Ann Boykin at laboykin@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292,
or 601-292-3292





July 25, 2010
School Prayerwalk/Teacher Appreciation Emphasis

Contact Mississippi WMU for more information at
800-748-1651, ext 323 or tanderson@mbcb.org.



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August 17-19, 2010

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QUESTIONS?

Contact Kay McDonnell, 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305, or
601-292-3305 or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE

September 17-18, 2010

Ridgecrest BC, Madison

State Conference has been the site of life-changing weekends for countless numbers of college and university students over the years. It will be the gathering place for hundreds of students in the fall. The weekend will provide many opportunities.

- Deepen your relationship with God through Bible study and worship
- Discuss common problems and contemporary issues
- Dialogue with program personalities and conference leaders
- Explore opportunities in missions for the coming year
- Strengthen your relationship with others through fellowship and recreation
- Build new friendships
- Hear what the Lord is doing in the lives of other students

PROGRAM:

Michael Kelley, SPEAKER, LifeWay, Nashville

Dave Hunt, MUSIC, Nashville

FOR MORE INFO: Contact Collegiate Ministries, Peggy Powell,
601-292-3299 or ppowell@mbcb.org

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"NEW" Pastor Workshop

August 30, 9 a.m.-noon, Calvary BC, Starkville

Argile Smith
Pastor, FBC, Biloxi

THEME: "Strengthening Your
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Info? Contact Kay McDonnell at 601.292.3305 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGIONAL TRAINING

August 9, 2010

6:30-9:00 p.m.
North Greenwood BC
Greenwood

August 23, 2010

6:30-9:00 p.m.
FBC
Laurel

September 14, 2010

6:30-9:00 p.m.
Parkway BC
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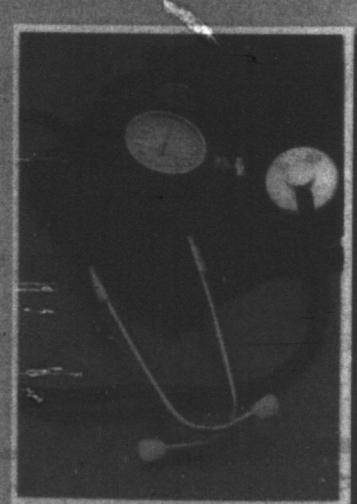
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Kathy Young at kyoung@mbcb.org
or Lee Ann Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org
or 1-800-748-1651, x292, or 601-292-3292

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- "NEW" to the pastorate
- "NEW" to their church
- Looking for "NEW" ideas

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



6. Fredonia Church, New Albany

1. First Church, Brandon: Kid Extreme Days, July 11 - 14, 6 - 8:45 p.m.; VBS, 4 years through K-5; Sports and Arts Camp, grades 1 - 5; register at www.fbcbrandton.com by July 9; call (601)825-6766 for more info. Free.
2. Sulphur Springs Church, Conehatta: July 12 - 17, 6 - 9 p.m.; adults and kids; preregister at (601) 625-9911 or visit <http://answersvbs.com/vbs/sulphurspringsbaptistchurch>.



THE WILLOW CREEK LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

AUGUST 5 - 6, 2010

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STAFF CHANGES

1. Bethel Church, Smith Association, has called Stevie Hand as pastor. Shown are Hand, his wife Danielle, and daughter Annabelle.
2. Main Street Church, Goodman, has called Kelly Mitchell as pastor. Shown are Mitchell, his wife Kim, and Jordan, Hayden, Madalyn, and Macrey.



1. The Hands



2. The Mitchells

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FBC FULTON ACCEPTING RESUMES for F/T Pastor at First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 400, Fulton, Ms. 38843 or fax to 662-862-5793 or email gaike@nexhand.com

SYLVA RENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Yalobush County, Ms. is seeking a full time Pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman, 17846 Hwy 32, Water Valley, Ms. 38965.

GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Pearl, MS is seeking a church pianist to play for two Sunday services, and choir rehearsal Wednesdays. Please contact Mike @ 601-624-9389.

Pray this day for...

July 9 - July 22, 2010

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"I don't want your sacrifices. I want your love.
I don't want your offerings. I want you to know me."

Hosea 6:6 Living Bible

Pray for a small team of two couples from **Southside BC**, Aberdeen, and **Juniper Grove BC**, Poplarville, as they help with the renovation of a building for Lakeshore Baptist Church in Cicero, NY.

Pray for: (1) a team from **FBC, Starkville**, traveling to Peru, July 21-29, to minister in the areas of discipleship, evangelism and service; (2) a team from **Forest BC** traveling to New York City, July 21-Aug. 1, to partner with a church doing sports ministry there.

Pray for: (1) GA Camp, Garaywa (WMU); (2) III Summer Mission Camp for Boys, Central Hills (MM); (3) Super Summer, Clinton (D&FM); (4) Young Musicians Camp, Blue Mountain (CM).

Pray for leadership as major decisions are being made to determine who will become the new leaders of the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

Pray for: (1) a team from the **Pearl River Baptist Association** traveling to Ukraine, July 15-24, to do medical missions and evangelism; (2) a team led by **Overflow BC**, Magee, as they travel to Kenya, July 16-26, to minister in the area of discipleship.

Pray for a team from **Cleary BC**, Florence, traveling to the Dominican Republic, July 22-29, to be a part of evangelistic efforts there.

Pray for: (1) State Literacy Conference, Clinton (WMU); (2) Pastor & Wife Retreat, Louisville (P/LD); (3) a team from **Hebron BC**, Grenada, traveling to New Mexico, July 17-24, as they are involved in VBS, construction, and revival.

Pray as a team from **Chesterville Calvary BC**, Tupelo, travel to Tanzania, July 22-Aug. 2, to minister in the areas of leadership training and evangelism.

Pray for: (1) a team from **Park Place BC** traveling to Brazil to minister through a sports camp, July 10-17; (2) II Lad/Dad Weekend, Central Hills, 9th-10th (MM); (3) Super Summer Prep Weekend.

Pray for: (1) a team from **Good Hope BC**, Purvis, leading a team to Kenya, July 10-18, to work with a ministry partner doing construction; (2) Pray for a team from **Evergreen BC**, Shubuta, going to work alongside a church in Indiana, July 10th-17th.

Pray for: (1) Youth Night-North, Tupelo (EVAN); (2) a team from **Escatawpa BC** as they work in New York, July 18-24, with a church to do Vacation Bible School for Hispanic children.

2010 SENIOR ADULT REGIONAL RALLIES

NORTHERN RALLY

Tuesday, August 24
FBC, Oxford
(662-234-3515)

SOUTHERN RALLY

Thursday, August 26
Family Association Center
Collins
(601-765-4689)

Cost \$1 at the door

SCHEDULE FOR RALLIES

8:30 a.m. Registration & Refreshments
9:00 Rally
10:00 Break
10:30 Conferences
11:30 Adjourn

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CONFERENCE

FRIDAY

Registration begins: 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY

Conference ends: 12:15 p.m.

MEALS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

FRIDAY 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Lunch with ROBIN CAROLL

FRIDAY 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Dinner with PATTI HILL

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HOUSE TOPS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Power of Courage

1 Samuel 17:8 -11, 32-39, 45-47

By Tony Martin

"Courage!" the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* belittled, and of course he wilted before the Wicked Witch of the West. David, however, faced Goliath with extraordinary, God-given courage, even when those around him had lost their courage. Even when we feel inadequate to face big challenges, we can live with that same God-given courage to meet each challenge.

Courage Diminished (1 Samuel 17:8 - 11)

David, up early, heard the challenge that Goliath gave to Saul and his army. Goliath challenged the Israelites to come up with their best warrior, and there would be one titanic one-on-one battle for supremacy. The "deal" Goliath offered was extraordinary; if the Jews could come up with someone who could defeat him, then the

Philistines would submit to the Jews and serve them. Should the Israelite champion be defeated, then the Jews would become the slaves of the Philistines.

There were no volunteers. The response of Saul and the rest of the army in v. 11 shows not only their terror in the face of this giant, but shows their faith in God's covenant with them to be shaken. The Israelites, who had begged God for a human king, now showed that their man-made confidence was now gone. Even Samuel, who it is believed was an above average-sized man, was dismayed and terrified. It is understandable that there are times when we feel overwhelmed by a challenge unlike anything we've ever faced, but God's promises do not change. And Saul's lack of courage had to have demoralized his troops and their confi-



Martin

dence in him.

Courage Discovered (1 Samuel 17:32-39)

This passage sets up a stark difference between Saul and David. While Saul had no confidence in a military solution to this ordeal, David expressed complete confidence in God's power to win the battle.

David says, in effect, "I'll take this guy on." And Saul gives David little reason to be confident: "You are only a boy, and he [Goliath] has been a fighting man from his youth" (v. 32). Remember the ten spies who saw the giants in Canaan in the book of Numbers, and concluded that it was impossible to enter the land? Possibly Saul was echoing that report and throwing it up to David.

David, however, wasn't buying that argument, and spends verses 34 - 37 explaining to Saul that he had killed a lion and a bear while tending to his sheep. David is looking at Goliath as just another animal attacking God's flock, and David's confi-

dence in God was the same confidence he displayed when dealing with wild beasts. "He [Goliath] has defiled the armies of the living God," David explains to Saul.

Saul, still thinking like a man fighting a conventional war, offers David his armor and weapons. "I cannot go in these," David says, and takes them off. David was able to trust God because of what he had seen God do in his life. Saul, however, might have expressed reliance on God, but his words and actions betray him - he preferred to trust in his own strength and experience, which would have been his downfall. Saul didn't believe that God could do something new. When we walk by sight, we can get discouraged, if not downright scared. If we walk by faith, God comes into the picture, and that completely changes the results.

Courage Displayed (1 Samuel 17:45 - 47)

So often we think in terms of this classic account being a children's story, or as a demonstration of how we can defeat the "giants" in our lives. There is

nothing wrong with that approach, but the core meaning here is that David recognized the power of God and did what he did for God's glory.

This response of David to Goliath shows David's heart. "I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled," David said. David viewed this not simply as a man-to-man battle, but a battle between Jehovah God and the false gods of the Philistines.

Prophetically, David continues by telling Goliath just what is about to happen, and closes with the rousing cry, "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

By standing up to our greatest challenges in God's strength, we demonstrate to those around us that God is trustworthy to deliver. God is totally sufficient and always victorious.

Scripture verses are from NIV

Martin is the Associate Editor of The Baptist Record.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What Spiritual Gifts Can I Use?

1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:1-40

By Laura Leathers

Have you ever been envious or desired another person's gift-edness? I have! Complete strangers seem to come out of nowhere when I am with my friend who has the gift of evangelism. She shares the good news of salvation with the lost and many believe in Christ. Their lives are transformed. Another friend has the gift of giving. She is not rich by any means, but she willingly gives from the resources she has to meet the needs of others and it isn't always monetary giving. The Corinthians had an issue regarding the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts. Believers need to realize there is to be no envy or desiring certain spiritual gifts over another, because . . .

We All Have Gifts 1 Cor. 12:4-10

The moment a person is

born into the family of God, is the moment the Holy Spirit deposits a certain spiritual gift into his or her life. Spiritual gifts are not natural or learned abilities but a Spirit-given ability to be specifically used in ministry and service for the edification of the church.

What do you notice in the following phrases: diversities of gifts—same Spirit; differences of ministries—same Lord, and diversities of activities—same God. The entire Trinity is involved in giving gifts! Furthermore the gifts are to be used in ministries and activities. When you study the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:11) you will see spiritual gifts divided into three categories: speaking, signs, and serving.

How does a believer know



Leathers

what spiritual gift they have? Personal Bible study and prayer can help a Christian unwrap unique gifts of the Spirit. Various inventories are also available to assess spiritual gifts. Since God has carefully selected

specific spiritual gifts for each of his children, each Christian is responsible for discovering, developing, and using their personal gifts for God's service" (The Women's Study Bible by Patterson & Kelley).

We Are Important to the Church – 1 Cor. 12:11-13; 18-19

Paul emphasizes for the fifth time that the source of the gifts is the Holy Spirit (vv. 4,5,6,8,9). We are not to seek the spiritual gifts but be willing to receive "as He wills". It is the Holy Spirit who empowers, equips, and enlightens a believer; it can't be said enough.

As Paul elaborates on spiritual gifts he uses the analogy of the human body to show diversity and the unity which is to

be in the body of the church. The word 'body' is used repeatedly throughout this chapter emphasizing the spiritual body of Christ. Every member of the body is important to the functioning of the entire body. Each member has a place where they are to be, to serve, and to act for God. The local church is affected greatly when even one member is not living for God and using their spiritual gift. We are intimately linked together in Christ. Every member's spiritual gift is extremely important to the church body!

We Have Gifts for the Church

1 Cor. 12:27-30

Paul finishes this part of his letter by reiterating "you are Christ's body, and individually members of it". Everyone is to function in this one body. Next he emphasizes the sovereignty of God. "It is God who appoints in the church". God knows what, where, who, when, why, and how the various gifts are needed for the church through its members. All of the gifts are given for the edification of the

church. Look back at verse seven, "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Spiritual gifts are given for the common good for the body of believers. Furthermore out of all of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible no one believer has them all, but everyone has at least one. Spiritual gifts are for the unity, diversity, sovereignty, and edification of the church.

We Are to Use Gifts Unselfishly

1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1, 39-40

Selfishness is inward, but the "more excellent way" is the way of love. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph 4:15-16 NKJV). This is using your gifts unselfishly!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

BIBLE DRILLS



1. New Zion Church, Crystal Springs

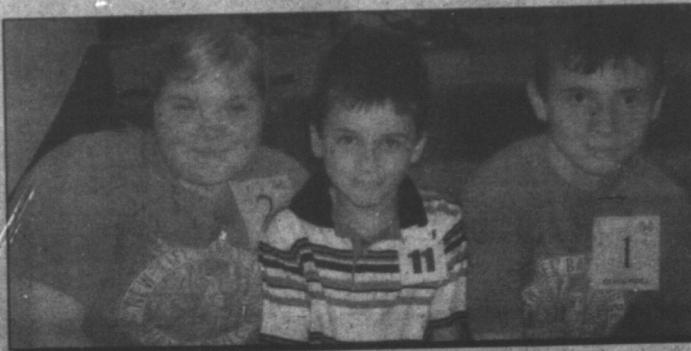
1. New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, recognizes its Bible Buddies, Children's drillers, and youth drillers. Shown are the participants.

2. Bethel Church, Louisville, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Gracelyn Cockrell, leader Debbie Cockrell, and Diana Richardson.

3. New Life Church, McLain recognizes its Bible drillers. From left: Hollie Bradley, Changier Pugh, and Cameron Pugh.



2. Bethel Church, Louisville



3. New Life Church, McLain

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Nine students were honored recently at the 2010 Theatre Awards Banquet at William Carey University. Shown are Heather Campbell of Picayune; Amanda Williams of Picayune; Amber Mauldin of Columbia; Beth Sanford of Daphne, Ala.; (back left to right) Chase Anderson of Oak Grove; Cory Clutter of Picayune; Zach Lancaster of Picayune; and Casey Rowe of Starkville.

2. William Carey University will offer a unique Night-Saturday nursing program beginning in the fall of 2011 on the Tradition campus. Students who are interested in this program are invited to an information session at



1. Theater awards winners, William Carey University

the Tradition campus on Highway 67 in Harrison County at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. July 17. Students are encouraged to attend and begin making plans to enroll

at WCU in the Fall of 2010 to take required pre-requisite courses. For further information contact Sarilyn Freeman or Robin Dennis at (228) 702-1825.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Friendship Church, McComb:** One-day revival, July 11; 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and 1 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Brad Johnson, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.
2. **Paynes Church, Tallahatchie County:** Homecoming, July 11; singing, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Gene Foshee, pastor and speaker.
3. **Calvary Church, Columbia:** Revival, July 11 - 16; Sun., 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; James Bell, music.
4. **New Zion Church, Braxton:** Revival, July 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Earl Clark, speaker; Richard Abercrombie, music.
5. **Corinth Church, Heidleberg:** Homecoming, July 11; services, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and the Revelations in concert; Jerry East, speaker; Chris Wells, pastor.
6. **Coldwater Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, July 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner and 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Futral, speaker; Tim & Andrea Moore, music.
7. **Shiloh Church, Carroll-Montgomery Association:** Revival, July 9 - 11; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.; Melvin Mordecai, speaker; Doug Warren, music.
8. **Sauls Valley Church, Monticello:** Revival, July 11 - 14; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Darryl Daniels, speaker; Rob Schepers, music.
9. **North Columbia Church, Columbia:** Revival, July 11 - 14; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Tommy Snyder, speaker; Price Harris, music; Mike Grenn, pastor.

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"I have never known anyone that loves Jesus and the ministry God has given him more than Dennis Deese. He is a Spirit-filled evangelist. I recommend him without reservation." Bill Stafford, Evangelist

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Just FOR THE RECORD



1. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia



2. Allen ordination



3. Springfield Church, Morton



4. Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba

1. **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia,** held a baby dedication on Father's Day. Shown are the six babies and their families.

2. **Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County,** recently ordained Daniel Allen as deacon. Shown are pastor Tommy Inmon, Allen, Gerald Brown, and Tim Williams.

3. **Springfield Church, Morton,** had 19 members complete the 90-day Bible Reader Challenge, and celebrated with a steak supper June 12. Shown are the participants.

4. **Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba,** recently recognized their kindergarten and high school graduates. Each student received a Bible. Shown are Arica Chambers, Jordanna Twilley, pastor Rickey Harris, Jimmy Dukes, and Kevin Harris.

5. **Magee's Creek Church, Jayess,** dedicated their pavilion on their property June 5, with 75 in attendance for the fish fry and fellowship. Jimmy Jones and Herlin Anthony were presented plaques for their labors. Shown are Jones and Anthony.

6. **The RA's and GA's of Branch Church, Morton,** visited the Morton Police Department. Coty May gave the children a tour of the department and talked about the different calls they respond to. Shown are the participants.

7. **Griffith Memorial Church, Byram,** held a celebration June 13 recognizing 50 years of ministry of their pastor, Paul Griffin Jones. The morning sermon was preached by his son, Mark. The church also provided a catered meal after the service. Steve Stone presented Jones with a recognition plaque. Shown are Stone, Jones, Sandra Jones, and Mark Jones.

8. **Liberty Church, Carroll County,** recognized the fathers in attendance during the morning worship service. Among those recognized were Barry Dubard, father with the most family members present; youngest father Donnie Cleveland; and Harold Kent, oldest father. Gary Tanner, pastor. Shown are Dubard, Cleveland, and Kent.



5. Jones and Anthony



6. Branch Church, Morton



7. Jones recognition



8. Dubard, Cleveland, and Kent